

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Jeffrey S. Swayze et al. : Paper No:  
Serial No. : Group Art Unit:  
Filed: : Examiner:  
For: SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT INCORPORATING A FIRING  
MECHANISM HAVING A LINKED RACK TRANSMISSION

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
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Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants herewith submit certain patent references which the Patent and Trademark Office may wish to consider in examining the above-identified application. The references are provided below, and are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449.

Pursuant to the waiver published in the Pre-OG Notice, dated July 11, 2003, no copies are provided herewith of U.S. patents cited. Copies of foreign patents and non-patent literature are provided herewith. No representation is made or intended that a prior art search has been made or that no better art than the listed is available. It is respectfully requested that the information be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the present application.

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Matthew G. Burgan

Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing

  
Signature

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey S. Swayze et al.



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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT***(use as many sheets as necessary)***Complete if Known**

Application N .	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	SWAYZE, Jeffrey S. et al.
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	

Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket No.	END5130-0517372
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**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner initials	Cite No.	DOCUMENT NUMBER		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind code <sup>2</sup> (if known)				
		US-	448,194	03-17-1891	Balbin	
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EXAMINER SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE CONSIDERED \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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First Named Inventor

Art Unit

Examiner Name

SWAYZE, Jeffrey S. et al.

Sheet

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of

2

Attorney Docket No.

END5130-0517372

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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
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**OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T <sup>6</sup>

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